has clarified that a bank guarantee is issued by a banker in favour of a beneficiary for the performance of certain acts by the customer of the bank in the form of performance guarantee or a financial guarantee is general in nature and cannot replace letter of credit. A letter of credit is always trade related and opened by the buyer for goods favouring seller indicating terms of contract fulfilment which enables the seller to receive payment from the bank in his country without waiting for the payment by the buyer. In view of this, it was decided not to accept bank guarantee for issuing transferable DEPB without realization of export proceeds.

Trade with Russia, US, China and UK

†2716. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the acutal status of Indo-Russia, Indo-US, Sino-India, Indo-UK trade during the last three years;

(b) whether any concrete steps are proposed to be taken for improvement in the trade with these countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The details of India's exports, imports and trade balance with Russia, US, China and UK during the last three years are given in the Statement enclosed (Seebelow)

(b) and (c) Trade promotion through the medium of Government and industry level interaction like Joint Commission meetings, exchange of sectoral business delegations, participation in trade fairs, organization of seminars and road shows in these countries is a continuous process. Efforts are made to identify products with good export potential, to break into new areas, to explore untapped potentials and focusing on identified fast growing areas. Based on the strategies contained in the Medium Term Export Strategy 2002—07, announced in January, 2002, a number of programmes/schemes have been launched through the Union Budget, 2003-04 and Exim Policy, 2003-04. In the Exim Policy, 2003-04, besides the focus on Service exports, policies have been devised to strengthen Special Economic Zones (SEZs), 100% Export Oriented Units (EOU's),

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

etc. A new programme called "Focus CIS" has been introduced. Duty Neutralization Schemes for import of inputs used for export production have been strengthened. Export Promotion being a constant endeavour of the Government, export performance is continuously monitored on a regular basis with a view to accelerating trade.

Statement

The details of India's exports, imports and trade balance with Russia, US, China and UK during the last three years

(Values in US $ Million)

Destination	April-March 2000-2001	April-March 2001-02	April-March 2002-03
A. India's Exports			
USA	9236.48	8513.34	10855.58
United Kingdom	2272.02	2160.87	2472.93
China PR.	828.68	951.95	1961.11
Russia	868.51	798.18	697.55
B. India's Imports			
USA	2839.74	3149.62	4417.54
United Kingdom	3137.87	2563.20	2778.29
China PR.	1492.49	2036.39	2782.50
Russia	516.35	535.51	589.50
C. India's Trade Balance			
USA	6396.74	5363.72	6438.04
United Kingdom	-865.85	-402.33	-305.36
China PR.	-663.81	-1084.44	-821.39
Russia	352.16	262.67	108.05

Export of groundnut

2717. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMFRCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that although India produces the maximum